

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 213594

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, YO, US

SUBJECT: US - YUGOSLAV MILITARY RELATIONS

REF: STATE 202783

1. REFTEL REPORTED COMMENT BY YUGOSLAV ASSISTANT MILITARY ATTACHE MIRKOVIC INDICATING DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE MAVERICK MISSILE IS NOT AVAILABLE TO YUGOSLAVIA. MIRKOVIC OBSERVED THAT MAVERICK IS BEING SOLD TO OTHER COUNTRIES. (COMMENT: THIS QUITE CLEARLY WAS A CONSIDERED REMARK SINCE GOY -- AND MIRKOVIC -- WERE AWARE OF USG RESPONSE ON MAVERICK FROM GENERAL LAWSON'S TRIP AND ALSO FROM "DE-BRIEFING" SESSION WITH MIRKOVIC AND OTHERS FOLLOWING LAWSON'S RETURN.)

2. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVS HERE WE
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INTEND TO DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS IN RESPONDING TO

THIS LINE OF COMMENT. EMBASSY MAY WISH TO DO THE SAME.

3. MAVERICK, AS YOU KNOW, IS A HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED AIR-TO-SURFACE MISSILE REQUIRING SENSITIVE GUIDANCE EQUIPMENT THAT IS CURRENTLY RESTRICTED. THE MAVERICK UTILIZES A VARIETY OF ADVANCED GUIDANCE SYSTEMS AND AIRCRAFT SUBSYSTEMS, SUCH AS TELEVISION AND LASER, WHICH REQUIRE

MODIFICATION OF EXISTING AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS.

MOREOVER, MAVERICK IS NOT

ONLY INTENDED FOR USE IN A DEFENSIVE MODE BUT CAN ALSO BE EMPLOYED IN AN ATTACK MODE. FOR THIS REASON, ITS SALE TO OTHER COUNTRIES HAS BEEN POLITICALLY SENSITIVE IN CONGRESS.

4. MIRKOVIC'S COMPLAINT THAT OUR TURNDOWN ON MAVERICK MEANS WE DO NOT SUPPORT THEIR DESIRE TO ACQUIRE SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT IS NOT VALID. WE HAVE ALREADY TOLD THE YUGOSLAVS WE ARE WILLING TO FURNISH THE TOW ANTITANK MISSILE IF THEY DESIRE IT.

5. F.Y.I. THE MAVERICK TECHNOLOGY HAS NOT BEEN COMPROMISED IN SOUTHEAST ASIA OR THE MIDDLE EAST. ANY COMPROMISE WOULD RESULT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTERMEASURES WHICH WOULD, OF COURSE, BE DETRIMENTAL TO U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY. UNDER A DIRECTIVE OF AUGUST 22, 1975, THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE APPROVED THE GRANTING OF AN EXCEPTION TO NATIONAL DISCLOSURE POLICY FOR YUGOSLAVIA TO PERMIT RELEASE OF CERTAIN SPECIFIED DATA ON A VISUAL AND ORAL BASIS THROUGH SECRET AND ON A DOCUMENTARY BASIS THROUGH CONFIDENTIAL. THIS PRECLUDES RELEASE OF MAVERICK, WHICH IS CLASSIFIED SECRET, WITHOUT SEEKING FURTHER EXCEPTION TO POLICY. FOR THESE REASONS, WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT PRUDENT TO OFFER MAVERICK TO THE YUGOSLAVS. GENERAL LAWSON SO INFORMED GENERAL PASTROVIC IN BELGRADE, AND PASTROVIC SAID HE UNDERSTOOD OUR POSITION. HE ALSO ADDED THAT THE YAF WOULD RATHER HAVE A QUICK "NO", THAN A DRAWN-OUT "MAYBE". MAVERICK HAS BEEN SOLD ONLY TO ISRAEL, IRAN, AND SWEDEN.

6. OASD/ISA CONCURS. KISSINGER

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